



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR PROVIDING GRATUITIES  
TO A PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Jose Barahona, age 58, of Great Falls, Virginia, was sentenced by the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. to 12 months in prison, a \$30,000 fine and 1 year of supervised release for providing gratuities to Charles Plis, a former Supervisory Contract Specialist for the U.S. Department of the Navy. In October, 2002, the defendant plead guilty to one count of providing gratuities.

According to the statement of facts adduced at the plea hearing, between 1993 and 2000, the defendant owned a janitorial company, Able Services Contractors, Inc. (ASCI), which was awarded several contracts to clean buildings at the Bethesda Naval Hospital campus. The defendant made illegal payments to Plis for the assistance that Plis provided to ASCI in connection with the contracts.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Defense Contract Audit Agency and the Internal Revenue Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gina L. Simms.